



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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December 14, 2005

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**EVENT: Sentencing/Plea**

**Defendant: Ali Hawil et al**

**TWO DEARBORN AREA MEN SENTENCED AND TWO FORMER  
STATE EMPLOYEES PLEAD GUILTY TO DOCUMENT FRAUD CASE**

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Daher Sarhan Al-Mayahi, 37 of Dearborn Heights, Michigan and Ali Hawil, 35 of Dearborn, Michigan were sentenced today in Detroit federal court after pleading guilty to one count each of Conspiracy to Commit Document Fraud and Visa Fraud on July 14, 2005 announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent in Charge Michelle McVicker, Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General, Dennis MacDonnell, Michigan Secretary of State, Office of Investigation and the Michigan State Police.

Hawil was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and Al-Mayahi received 12 months minus one day. The sentences were handed down by United States District Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

The information presented to the court at the time of the guilty pleas showed that between November 10, 2003 and April 28, 2005, Daher Al-Mayahi, Ali Hawil and others, including Barbara Wilke of the Michigan Secretary of State, conspired to possess hundreds of false, counterfeit and fraudulently obtained passports, visas, birth certificates, and driver's

licenses within the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area, which they used themselves unlawfully in some instances and in other instances transferred the documents unlawfully to others, including to illegal aliens already present within the United States. Al-Mayahi, who is a citizen of Iraq, and Hawil, who is a citizen of Guinea, also each possessed a counterfeit Guinean Passport and a counterfeit U.S. Visa bearing their likeness but with a false name.

### **BARBARA WILKE**

In a related case, Barbara Wilke, 56 of West Bloomfield, pleaded guilty today before Judge Arthur J. Tarnow for her part in the conspiracy involving AL-MAYAH and HAWIL. Specifically, WILKEY admitted that while working as a clerk at the New Center branch of the Secretary of State, 3046 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI, she engaged in a fraudulent identification document scheme with Al-Mayahi, Hawil, and others. In exchange for payments made by the customers to Al-Mayahi and Hawil, WILKEY provided the customers with identification documents without lawful authority. As a member of the scheme, WILKEY received regular payments from Al-Mayahi and Hawil in the form of cash, entertainment and repayment of gambling debts.

Wilke is scheduled to be sentenced on March 30, 2006.

### **REGJEAN WELCH**

Another former employee of the Michigan Secretary of State's office, REGJEAN WELCH, age 26, also pled guilty today to a separate conspiracy to issue fraudulent driver's licenses and identification documents. WELCH admitted that during her employment at the Secretary of State's Livonia West Branch Office, 19229 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI, she issued operator's licenses and personal identification cards to individuals in alias names for a fee ranging from one hundred to five hundred dollars, which was given to her co-conspirator. The individuals were directed to WELCH's branch office by her co-conspirator and would approach WELCH's counter at which time she would process their requests for alias identification documents without requiring them to produce valid proof of their identities.

Normally, an applicant for a Michigan operator's license or personal identification card must prove his or her identity and residence by presenting certain specified documents to a Secretary of State clerk, such as the applicant's birth certificate, passport or utility bills. To obtain an operator's license, the applicant must also pass knowledge and road skills test, complete practice on a temporary instruction permit and pay a \$25 fee.

WELCH is scheduled to be sentenced on May 1, 2006, at 11 a.m., before Judge Bernard A. Friedman.

The statutory maximum penalties for this offense is 5 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both. Pursuant to the plea agreement, WILKEY and WELCH's sentencing ranges are six to sixteen months imprisonment

In announcing the sentences and pleas, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy, commended the work of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, and the Michigan Department of State, Investigations Division and the Michigan State Police, who conducted a "diligent and thorough" investigation. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Chadwell.

"This case underscores the seriousness with which my office and the Department of Homeland Security view the possession and issuance of fraudulent identity documents. Those documents can then be used to facilitate the movement of illegal aliens, criminals and terrorists throughout our country," said United States Attorney Murphy.

Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent In Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, said "Today's actions sends a clear message that we will not tolerate the use of fraudulent driver licenses and other fabricated government documents. We will continue to apply all resources available to stop individuals from abusing our system."